

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN OCTOBER 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in October 2006 was 66,300 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in October was 2,140 t, 3% lower than that in September but 3% higher than that in October 2005. Mine production for the first 10 months of 2006, however, was slightly lower than that for the first 10 months of 2005. Reported consumption of 32,800 t of refined zinc was 4% higher than that in September but 5% lower than that in October 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of October was 186.07 cents per pound, 12% higher than the September average price but an increase of 156% from the October 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for October increased to \$3,822.07 per metric ton of zinc, 12%

higher than the price in September but a 157% increase compared with the price in October 2005. During October 2006, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 33,250 t to 105,875 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in October, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 1,118 t (1,232 short tons), with an approximate value of \$4.2 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for October 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, November 6, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	August	September	October	January- October
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	64,700	68,400 ^r	68,900	622,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	62,300	65,800 ^r	66,300	598,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	259,000	19,200 ^e	24,100 ^e	23,800 ^e	209,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	33,400	31,400	32,800	336,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	606
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	159,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	147,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	1,200
Total ^e	774,000	64,200	62,100	63,500	643,000
Apparent consumption, metal ³	939,000	93,000	117,000	95,500 ⁴	932,000
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁵	XX	6,450 ^e	7,110 ^e	7,160 ^e	XX
Consumer ⁶	XX	55,500	49,400	49,700	XX
Merchant	XX	10,400	10,400	10,400	XX
Total	XX	72,300	66,900	67,200	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	1,810	3,070	1,120	16,300
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	84,800	71,300	NA	632,000 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	13,000	6,860	NA	97,000 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	42,700	617	NA	215,000 ⁷
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	784	--	359	NA	1,310 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	2,440	2,480	NA	21,300 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	276,000	157,000	NA	555,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	11,000	10,100	NA	58,200 ⁷
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	1,381.37	3,346.00	3,402.25	3,822.07	3,050.73
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	163.83	166.60	186.07	148.39

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁴Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁵Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁶Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁷Includes data through September only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ³	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ³
2005:				
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 ^e	20,100 ^e	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 ^e	20,200 ^e	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 ^e	21,100 ^e	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 ^e	18,800 ^e	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 ^e	19,900 ^e	6,300
June	6,300	19,200 ^e	19,000 ^e	6,510
July	6,510	22,100 ^e	22,300 ^e	6,340
August	6,340	19,200 ^e	19,100 ^e	6,450
September	6,450	24,100 ^e	23,400 ^e	7,110
October	7,110	23,800 ^e	23,700 ^e	7,160
January-October	XX	209,000 ^e	208,000 ^e	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE
AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December	August	September	October ²	January- October
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	38,100	47,100	39,000	384,000
Other	121,000	13,200	18,700	13,900	132,000
Total	513,000	51,300	65,800	52,900	517,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	14,700	18,200	14,800	145,000
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	19,900	24,900	20,500	199,000
Other uses ³	76,900	7,100	8,400	7,300	71,300
Grand total	939,000	93,000	117,000	95,500	932,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
August	163.83	151.77	3,346.00
September	166.60	154.32	3,402.25
October	186.07	173.37	3,822.07
January-October	148.39	138.38	3,050.73

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	359	410	1,310	\$2,370
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	157,000	193,000	555,000	671,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	10,100	10,400	58,200	71,500
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	1,650	3,660	11,100	22,000
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	2,480	3,670	21,300	33,300
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	144	190	1,070	1,320
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	7,140	5,640	23,300	16,000
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	67	403	623	1,900

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for October 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	September		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	71,300	\$190,000	632,000	\$1,350,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	617	932	215,000	133,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	998	1,510	10,300	12,800
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	2,850	11,500	22,300	74,500
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	6,860	17,200	97,000	174,000
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	61	78	942	1,360
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	6,010	4,940	34,300	23,800
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	72	91	4,330	3,200

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for October 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
June	38,700	3,270	35,500
July	35,500	907	34,600
August	34,600	1,810	32,800
September	32,800	3,070	29,700
October	29,700	1,120	28,600
January-October	XX	17,400	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		September	Year to date		September	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	--	2,850	8,590	--	2,850
Ireland	13,000	--	12,600	13,000	--	12,600
Mexico	27,300	151	55,400	27,300	151	55,400
Peru	104,000	--	141,000	104,000	--	141,000
Other	2,900	466	2,700	2,900	466	2,700
Total	156,000	617	215,000	156,000	617	215,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	--	10,000	24,600	2,490	41,200
Brazil	43,700	659	7,120	43,800	2,320	10,600
Canada	439,000	46,300	400,000	439,000	46,300	400,000
China	15	--	3	2,140	1,950	47,300
Japan	--	--	251	1,210	--	6,150
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	4,190	46,600
Mexico	147,000	13,700	70,500	147,000	13,700	70,800
Norway	--	--	--	--	--	1,160
Peru	235	80	323	834	80	600
Other	1,320	5,820	5,840	1,770	5,820	7,560
Total	636,000	60,900	494,000	668,000	71,300	632,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	2,680	25,400	15,800	2,680	25,400
Grand total	807,000	64,200	735,000	840,000	74,600	873,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	3,580	38,500	62,000	3,580	38,500
China	173	46	177	173	46	177
Italy	15,400	--	19,400	15,400	--	19,400
Japan	1,080	201	991	1,080	201	991
Mexico	24,100	2,080	22,800	24,100	2,080	22,800
Netherlands	4,450	888	5,880	4,450	888	5,880
Other	2,040	59	9,250	2,040	59	9,250
Total	109,000	6,860	97,000	109,000	6,860	97,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	998	10,300	9,580	998	10,300
Sheets	3,630	228	1,760	3,630	228	1,760
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	2,850	22,300	23,400	2,850	22,300

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for October 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.